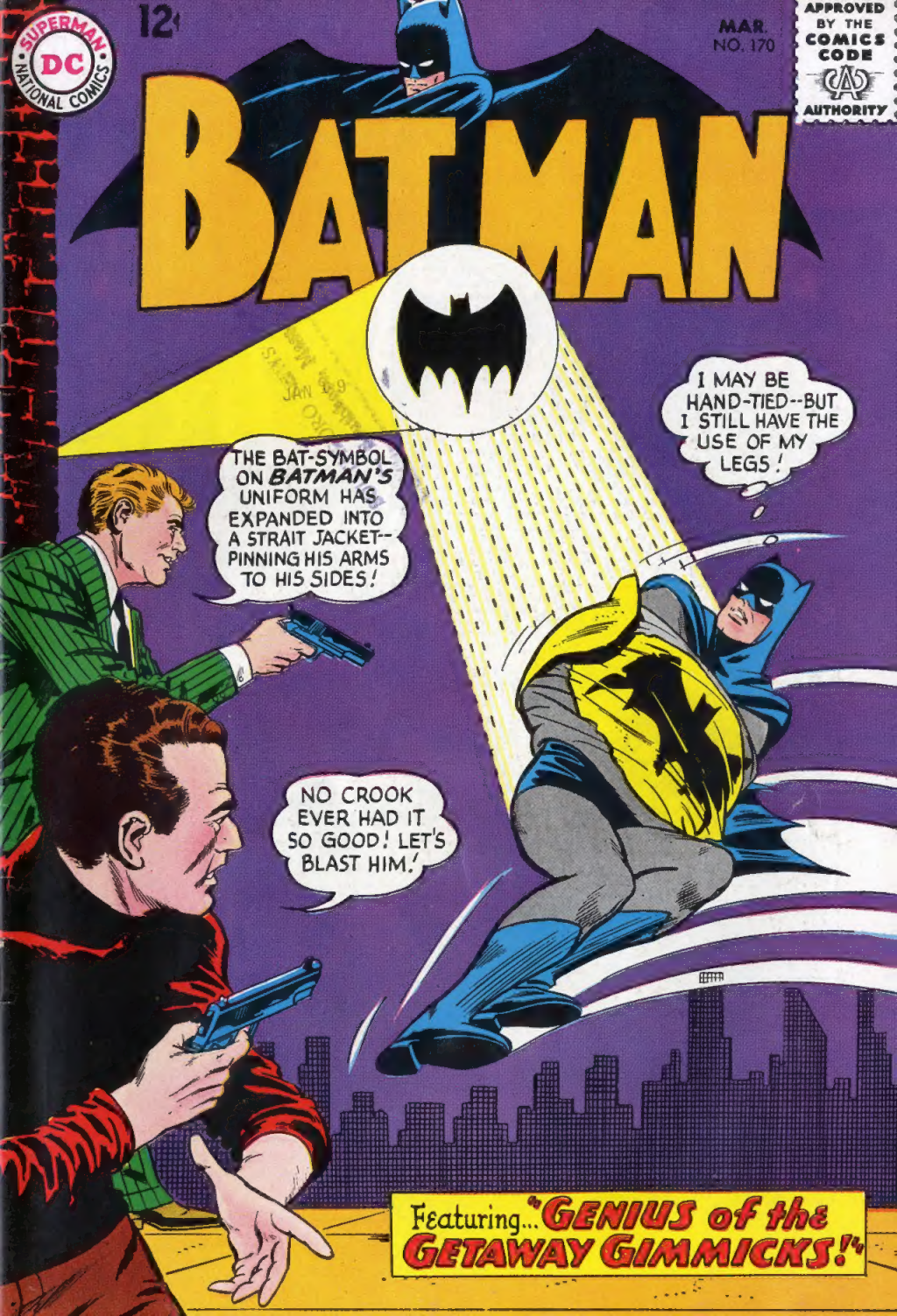
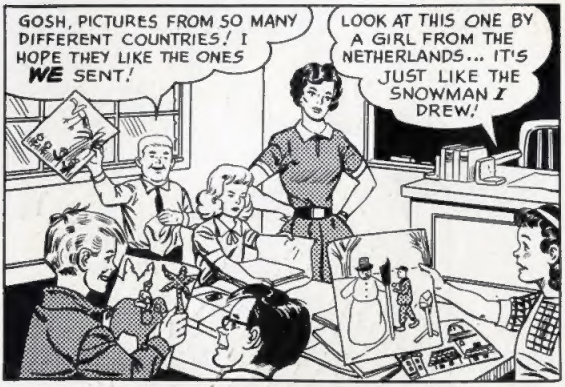
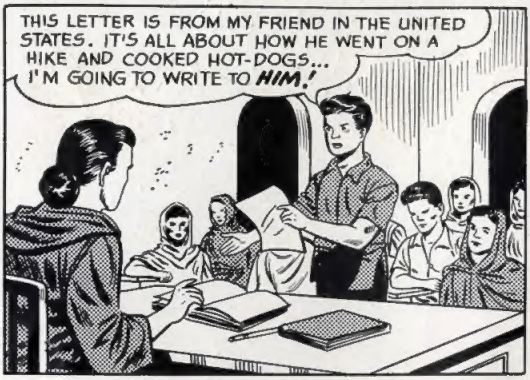
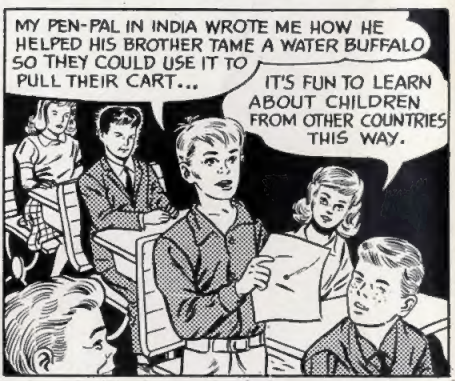

SUPERMAN • DC • NATIONAL COMICS
12¢
MAR. NO. 170
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BATMAN
THE BAT-SYMBOL ON BATMAN'S UNIFORM HAS EXPANDED INTO A STRAIT JACKET--PINNING HIS ARMS TO HIS SIDES!
I MAY BE HAND-TIED--BUT I STILL HAVE THE USE OF MY LEGS!
NO CROOK EVER HAD IT SO GOOD! LET'S BLAST HIM!
Featuring..."GENIUS of the GETAWAY GIMMICKS!"

FRIENDS ACROSS THE SEAS


GOSH, PICTURES FROM SO MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES! I HOPE THEY LIKE THE ONES WE SENT!
LOOK AT THIS ONE BY A GIRL FROM THE NETHERLANDS... IT'S JUST LIKE THE SNOWMAN I DREW!

HERE'S A GREAT ONE FROM INDIA BY A BOY MY AGE!
MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO WRITE TO HIM, JIM, AND TELL HIM ABOUT SOME OF YOUR ACTIVITIES HERE...


THIS LETTER IS FROM MY FRIEND IN THE UNITED STATES. IT'S ALL ABOUT HOW HE WENT ON A HIKE AND COOKED HOT-DOGS... I'M GOING TO WRITE TO HIM!


MY PEN-PAL IN INDIA WROTE ME HOW HE HELPED HIS BROTHER TAME A WATER BUFFALO SO THEY COULD USE IT TO PULL THEIR CART...
IT'S FUN TO LEARN ABOUT CHILDREN FROM OTHER COUNTRIES THIS WAY.

YES, YOU'LL GET TO UNDERSTAND DIFFERENT CULTURES AND CUSTOMS--AND YOU'LL ALSO FIND OUT HOW MANY INTERESTS YOU HAVE IN COMMON!

1965 IS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION YEAR. CELEBRATING THE 20th ANNIVERSARY of the UNITED NATIONS...

ASK YOUR TEACHER HOW **YOU** CAN EXCHANGE PICTURES OR BECOME A PEN-PAL WITH SOMEBODY FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY. **YOU**, TOO, CAN HAVE A FRIEND ACROSS THE SEAS!

PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.

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BATMAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
ON MANY OF THEIR CASES, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE CONFRONTED BY CRIMINALS WHOSE MAIN OBJECTIVE IT IS TO PLACE THEM IN TRAPS OF DEADLY DANGER!
SO INTENT ARE THESE HOODLUMS ON GETTING RID OF THEIR FOES THAT THE LOOT THEY GAIN IS OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE! BUT NOT ROY REYNOLDS'! ALL HIS CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES ARE CONCENTRATED ON STEALING AND MAKING HIS GETAWAY! HE CARES NOTHING ABOUT THE MASKED MANHUNTER AND THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT EXCEPT TO--ESCAPE THEM!
GENIUS OF THE GETAWAY GIMMICKS!
LOOK! THE BAT-SYMBOL ON BATMAN'S UNIFORM HAS EXPANDED INTO A STRAIT JACKET--PINNING HIS ARMS TO HIS SIDE!
WHATTA WE WAITIN' FOR? IT'S A PERFECT SETUP FOR GETTIN' RID OF OUR NEMESIS ONCE AN' FOR ALL!
BOB KANE

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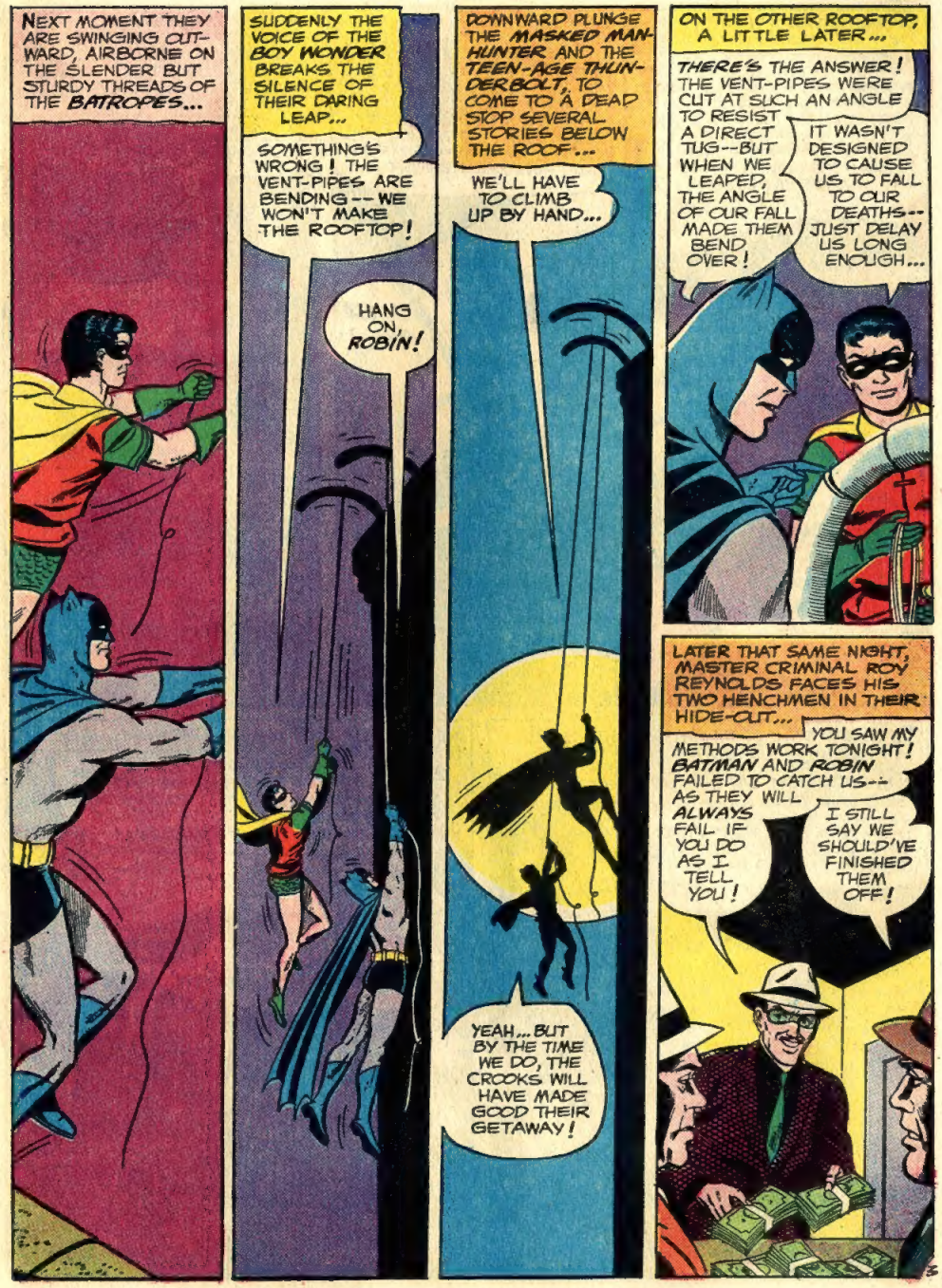
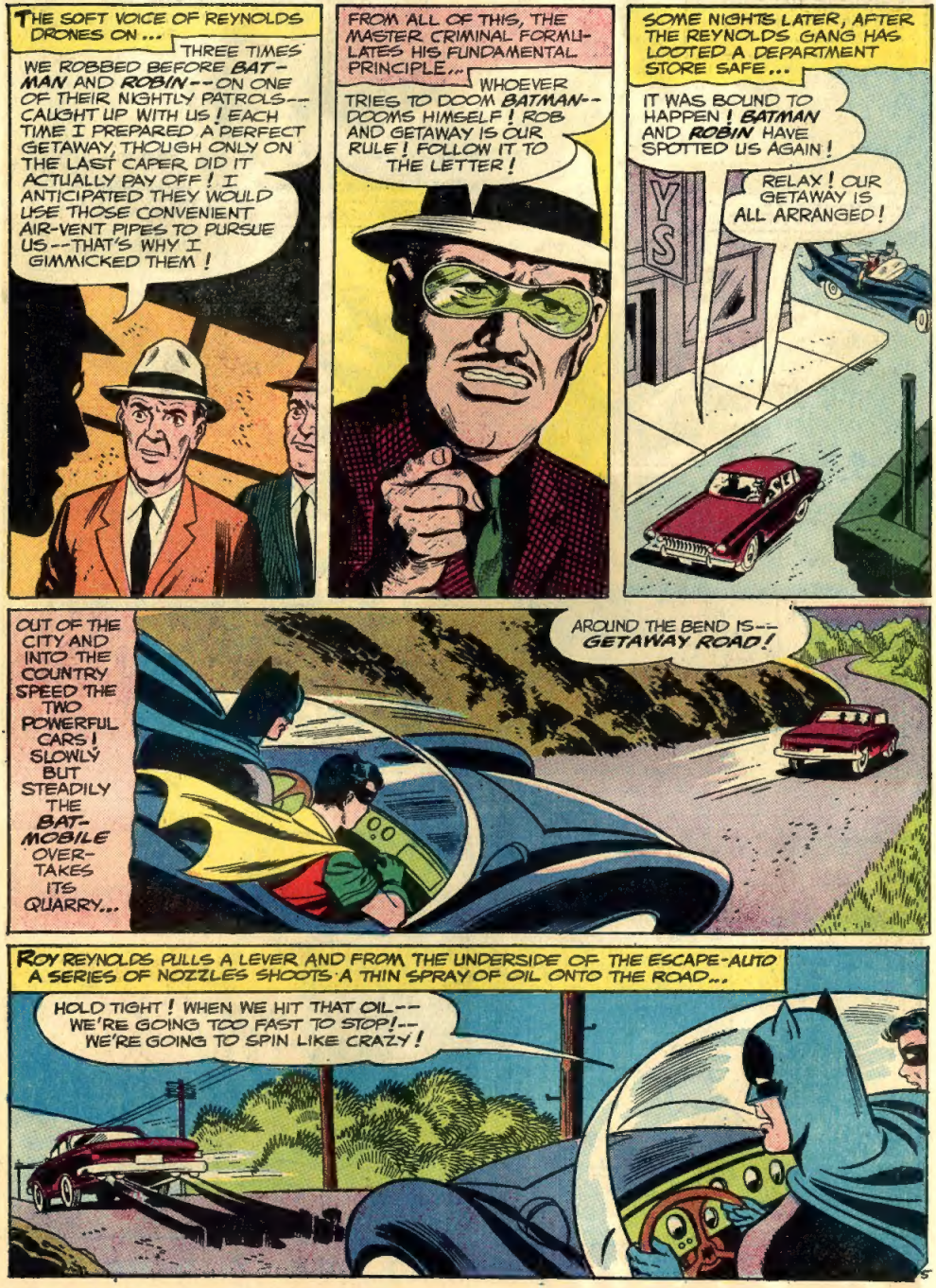
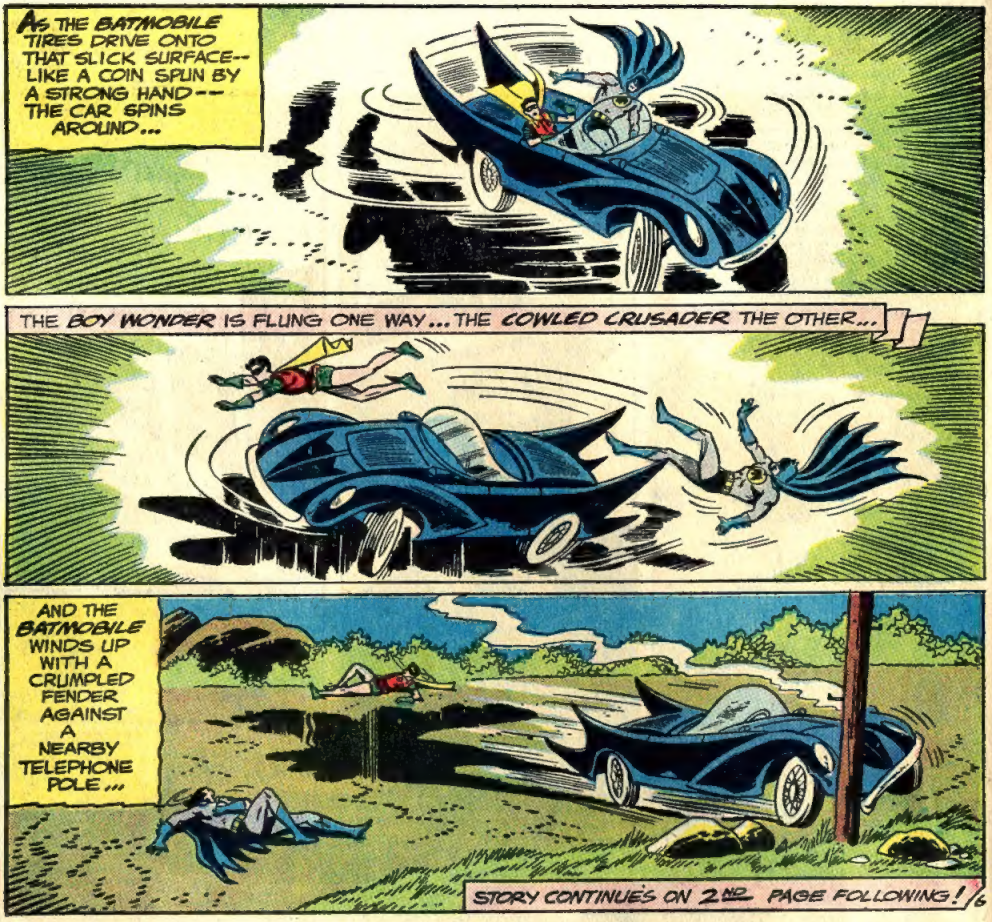
ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS OF A SLEEPING CITY SPEED A MAN AND A BOY... HOT ON THE HEELS OF THREE RUNAWAY CRIMINALS...
THEY GOT AWAY WITH THE FACTORY PAYROLL!
NOT YET, ROBIN! WE'RE CLOSING IN ON THEM!
HIGH ABOVE A NARROW ALLEYWAY THE THIEVES CROSS THE CITY CANYON ON A THICK PLANK...
ON THE FARAWAY ROOF, A FOOT KICKS AWAY THE HEAVY BOARD SO THAT THE ALLEYWAY OPENING LOOMS AS AN IMPASSABLE OBSTACLE IN THE PATH OF BATMAN AND ROBIN...
WE'RE IN THE CLEAR! THEY'LL NEVER CATCH US NOW!
ALTHOUGH THEIR FEET GRIND TO A HALT, THE HANDS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN CONTINUE IN MOTION AS BATROPES ARE YANKED FROM THEIR BELTS AND SENT SNAKING ACROSS THE ROOF...
THOSE AIR-VENT PIPES, ROBIN!
THEY LOOK STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD US--BUT WE'LL TEST THEM TO MAKE SURE!
TWIN NOOSES TIGHTEN! TWO ROPES HUM WITH TAUTNESS AS MIGHTY MUSCLES YANK HARD UPON THEM...
GOOD ENOUGH! NOW WE CAN GO AFTER THOSE HOODLUMS!
OVER WE GO!


NEXT MOMENT THEY ARE SWINGING OUTWARD, AIRBORNE ON THE SLENDER BUT STURDY THREADS OF THE BATROPES...
SUDDENLY THE VOICE OF THE BOY WONDER BREAKS THE SILENCE OF THEIR DARING LEAP...
SOMETHING'S WRONG! THE VENT-PIPES ARE BENDING--WE WON'T MAKE THE ROOFTOP!
HANG ON, ROBIN!
DOWNWARD PLUNGE THE MASKED MANHUNTER AND THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT, TO COME TO A DEAD STOP SEVERAL STORIES BELOW THE ROOF...
WE'LL HAVE TO CLIMB UP BY HAND...
YEAH... BUT BY THE TIME WE DO, THE CROOKS WILL HAVE MADE GOOD THEIR GETAWAY!
ON THE OTHER ROOFTOP, A LITTLE LATER...
THERE'S THE ANSWER! THE VENT-PIPES WERE CUT AT SUCH AN ANGLE TO RESIST A DIRECT TUG--BUT WHEN WE LEAPED, THE ANGLE OF OUR FALL MADE THEM BEND OVER!
IT WASN'T DESIGNED TO CAUSE US TO FALL TO OUR DEATHS--JUST DELAY US LONG ENOUGH...
LATER THAT SAME NIGHT, MASTER CRIMINAL ROY REYNOLDS FACES HIS TWO HENCHMEN IN THEIR HIDE-OUT...
YOU SAW MY METHODS WORK TONIGHT! BATMAN AND ROBIN FAILED TO CATCH US--AS THEY WILL ALWAYS FAIL IF YOU DO AS I TELL YOU!
I STILL SAY WE SHOULD'VE FINISHED THEM OFF!

ANGER CONTORTS THE FACE OF ROY REYNOLDS INTO HARSH LINES...
NO! I ABSOLUTELY FORBID IT! THIS IS ONE THING YOU MUST NOT TRY TO DO! FAR SMARTER CROOKS THAN YOU OR I HAVE TRIED TO CAPTURE BATMAN--AND ALWAYS THEY FAILED! IT'S THE ONE WAY TO COURT DISASTER!
I TELL YOU THIS: IF YOUR OBJECTIVE IS TO GET RID OF BATMAN AND ROBIN--FORGET IT! IT CAN'T BE DONE! THEIR RECORD PROVES THEY ALWAYS MANAGE TO ESCAPE EVERY TRAP LAID FOR THEM! BESIDES--I'M A THIEF--NOT AN EXECUTIONER!
ALL MY EFFORTS ARE DIRECTED TO COMMITTING A CRIME AND GETTING AWAY SAFELY! THE MINUTE I CONCENTRATE ON TRYING TO GET RID OF BATMAN AND ROBIN--IT'LL BOOMERANG ON ME AND CAUSE MY OWN DOOM!
IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE PAPERS ARE FILLED WITH THE AMAZING ESCAPES OF BATMAN FROM AWESOME TRAPS--WITH THE RESULTANT CAPTURE OF THE CRIMINALS WHO LAID THEM...
TWO MORE FOOLHARDY CROOKS WHO SOUGHT TO OUTWIT BATMAN--AND FAILED!
AGAIN, WHEN THE JOKER HAS CHALLENGED HIS ARCH-FOES...
THAT JOKER WILL NEVER LEARN! HE THOUGHT HE HAD BATMAN AND ROBIN IN A FOOLPROOF TRAP--ONLY TO HAVE THEM ESCAPE AND PUT HIM IN JAIL--AS USUAL!
YOU TWO ARE WASHED UP! YOU'LL NEVER GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE--BECAUSE ONLY THIS KEY CAN SAFELY OPEN THE DOOR--AND I'M TAKING IT WITH ME! ANY OTHER MEANS OF ESCAPE WILL BLOW THE CELL--AND YOU--TO SMITHEREENS!


THE SOFT VOICE OF REYNOLDS DRONES ON...
THREE TIMES WE ROBBED BEFORE BATMAN AND ROBIN--ON ONE OF THEIR NIGHTLY PATROLS--CAUGHT UP WITH US! EACH TIME I PREPARED A PERFECT GETAWAY, THOUGH ONLY ON THE LAST CAPER DID IT ACTUALLY PAY OFF! I ANTICIPATED THEY WOULD USE THOSE CONVENIENT AIR-VENT PIPES TO PURSUE US--THAT'S WHY I GIMMICKED THEM!
FROM ALL OF THIS, THE MASTER CRIMINAL FORMULATES HIS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE...
WHOEVER TRIES TO DOOM BATMAN--DOOMS HIMSELF! ROB AND GETAWAY IS OUR RULE! FOLLOW IT TO THE LETTER!
SOME NIGHTS LATER, AFTER THE REYNOLDS GANG HAS LOOTED A DEPARTMENT STORE SAFE...
IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN! BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE SPOTTED US AGAIN!
RELAX! OUR GETAWAY IS ALL ARRANGED!
OUT OF THE CITY AND INTO THE COUNTRY SPEED THE TWO POWERFUL CARS! SLOWLY BUT STEADILY THE BAT-MOBILE OVER-TAKES ITS QUARRY...
AROUND THE BEND IS--GETAWAY ROAD!
ROY REYNOLDS PULLS A LEVER AND FROM THE UNDERSIDE OF THE ESCAPE-AUTO A SERIES OF NOZZLES SHOOTS A THIN SPRAY OF OIL ONTO THE ROAD...
HOLD TIGHT! WHEN WE HIT THAT OIL--WE'RE GOING TOO FAST TO STOP!--WE'RE GOING TO SPIN LIKE CRAZY!


AS THE BATMOBILE TIRES DRIVE ONTO THAT SLICK SURFACE-- LIKE A COIN SPUN BY A STRONG HAND--- THE CAR SPINS AROUND...
THE BOY WONDER IS FLUNG ONE WAY... THE COWLED CRUSADER THE OTHER...
AND THE BATMOBILE WINDS UP WITH A CRUMPLED FENDER AGAINST A NEARBY TELEPHONE POLE...
STORY CONTINUES ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING!

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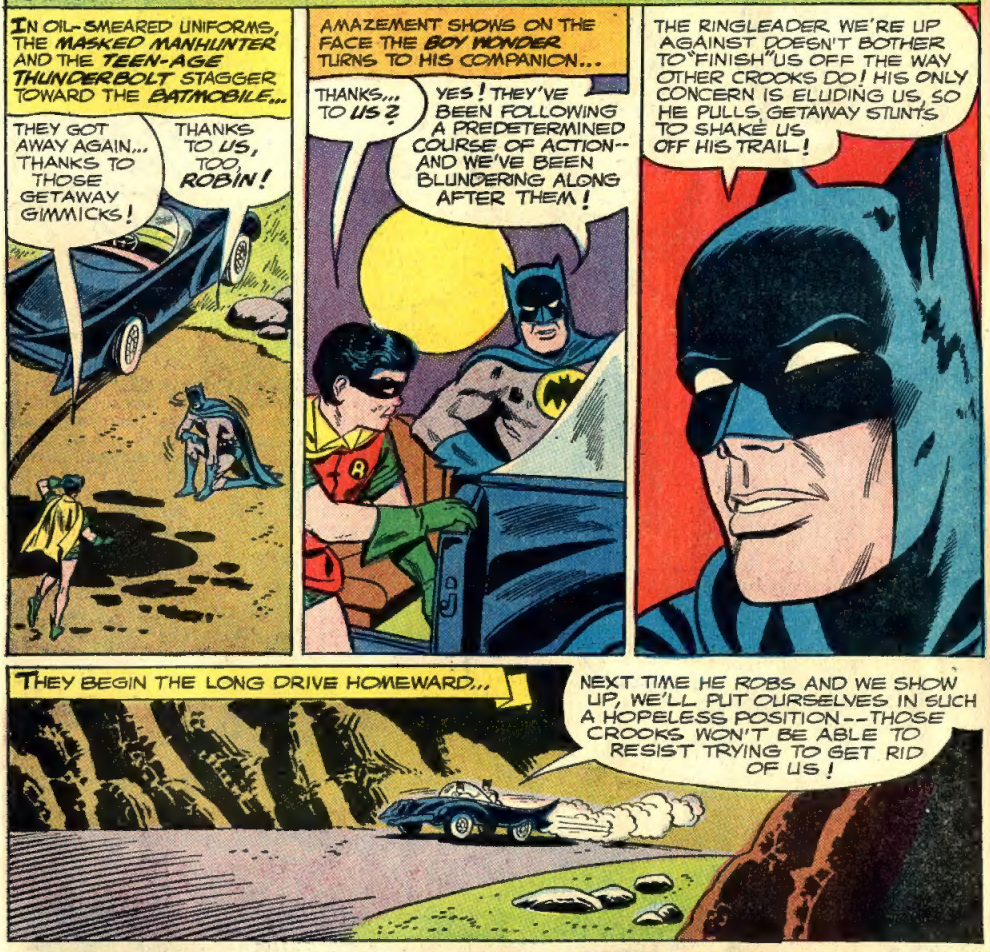
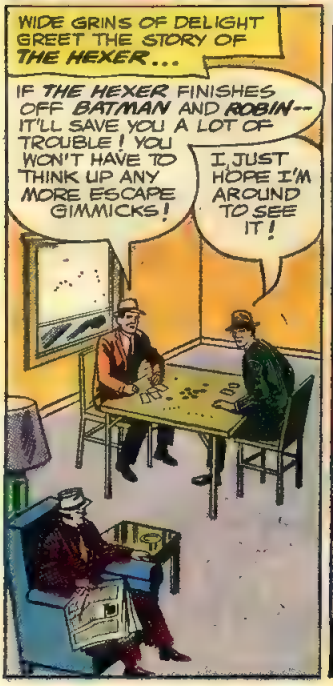
GENIUS OF THE GETAWAY GIMMICKS! PART 2

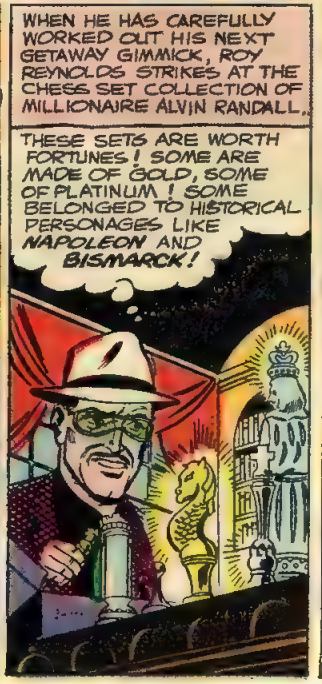

IN OIL-SMEARED UNIFORMS, THE MASKED MANHUNTER AND THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT STAGGER TOWARD THE BATMOBILE...
THEY GOT AWAY AGAIN... THANKS TO THOSE GETAWAY GIMMICKS!
THANKS TO US, TOO, ROBIN!
AMAZEMENT SHOWS ON THE FACE THE BOY WONDER TURNS TO HIS COMPANION...
THANKS... TO US?
YES! THEY'VE BEEN FOLLOWING A PREDETERMINED COURSE OF ACTION-- AND WE'VE BEEN BLUNDERING ALONG AFTER THEM!
THE RINGLEADER WE'RE UP AGAINST DOESN'T BOTHER TO "FINISH" US OFF THE WAY OTHER CROOKS DO! HIS ONLY CONCERN IS ELUDING US, SO HE PULLS GETAWAY STUNTS TO SHAKE US OFF HIS TRAIL!
THEY BEGIN THE LONG DRIVE HOMEWARD...
NEXT TIME HE ROBS AND WE SHOW UP, WE'LL PUT OURSELVES IN SUCH A HOPELESS POSITION--THOSE CROOKS WON'T BE ABLE TO RESIST TRYING TO GET RID OF US!
I CATCH ON! INSTEAD OF CONCENTRATING ON RUNNING AWAY--THEY'LL COME AFTER US!
EXACTLY! AND WHEN THEY DO-- SOCKO! WE'LL GET THEM!

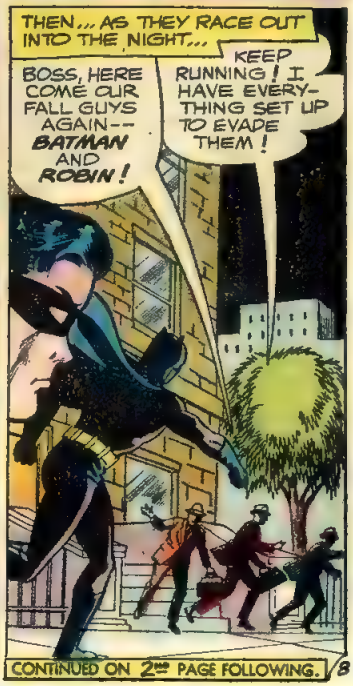
SOME DAYS AFTERWARD, AS ROY REYNOLDS SCANS THE NEWSPAPERS AS IS HIS HABIT...
HELLO! WHAT'S THIS? BATMAN WAS CAUGHT IN A TRAP BY A CRIMINAL KNOW AS THE HEXER--BUT GOT AWAY AND CAPTURED HIS MAN! AHA! JUST AS I'VE SAID RIGHT ALONG!

THE HEXER TRIED TO GET RID OF BATMAN--SO THE HEXER IS IN JAIL! DON'T YOU GET ANY FOOLISH NOTIONS LIKE THAT! JUST CONCENTRATE ON ESCAPING!

IT SEEMS BATMAN ESCAPED BY USING THE BAT-SIGNAL IN THE SKY--SOMETHING THE HEXER NEVER COUNTED ON! NOW--THE HEXER HAS VOWED TO USE THE BAT-SIGNAL IN SOME MYSTERIOUS OCCULT MANNER TO CAUSE BATMAN'S AND ROBIN'S DOOM! WHAT UTTER NONSENSE!


WIDE GRINS OF DELIGHT GREET THE STORY OF THE HEXER...
IF THE HEXER FINISHES OFF BATMAN AND ROBIN--IT'LL SAVE YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE! YOU WON'T HAVE TO THINK UP ANY MORE ESCAPE GIMMICKS!
I JUST HOPE I'M AROUND TO SEE IT!


WHEN HE HAS CAREFULLY WORKED OUT HIS NEXT GETAWAY GIMMICK, ROY REYNOLDS STRIKES AT THE CHESS SET COLLECTION OF MILLIONAIRE ALVIN RANDALL.
THESE SETS ARE WORTH FORTUNES! SOME ARE MADE OF GOLD, SOME OF PLATINUM! SOME BELONGED TO HISTORICAL PERSONAGES LIKE NAPOLEON AND BISMARCK!


THEN... AS THEY RACE OUT INTO THE NIGHT...
BOSS, HERE COME OUR FALL GUYS AGAIN--BATMAN AND ROBIN!
KEEP RUNNING! I HAVE EVERYTHING SET UP TO EVADE THEM!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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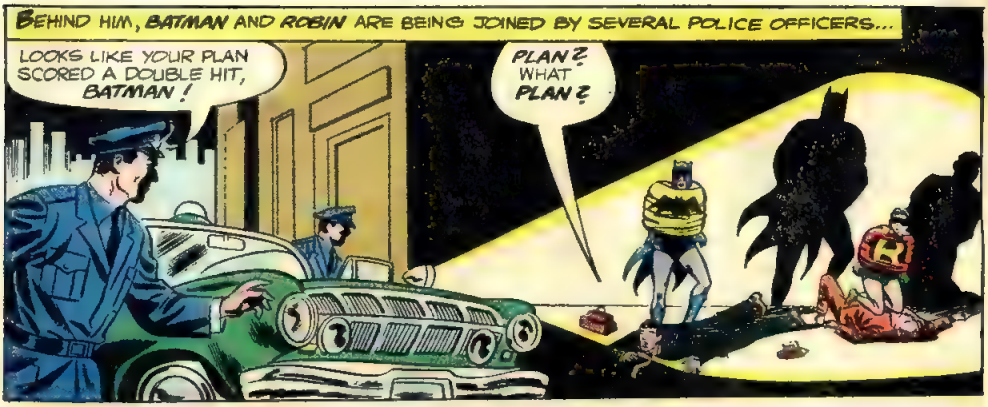
THE FLASH'S MASKED IDENTITY
ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
The ATOM
SUPERBABY to SUPERBOY to SUPERMAN
SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
ON SALE JAN. 14th

BUT HIS TWO FELLOW CRIMINALS STOP SHORT AS THEY SEE...
THE BAT-SIGNAL IN THE SKY!
HEY, LOOK AT BATMAN! THE BAT-EMBLEM ON HIS UNIFORM IS GETTING LARGER! THAT MUST BE THE DOOM THE HEXER BOASTED ABOUT!
EVEN AS THEY STARE IN AWE, THE THIEVES SEE THE EMBLEM GROW EVEN LARGER--AS ROBIN TOO IS CAUGHT IN A SIMILAR TRAP...
THE BAT-EMBLEM'S ENCIRCLING ME--GRIPPING MY BODY!
SAME THING'S HAPPENING TO ME WITH THE R-SYMBOL OF MY UNIFORM!
NEXT MOMENT, THE BAT-EMBLEM HAS GROWN TO SUCH PROPORTIONS THAT...
HAW! HAW! THAT HEXER SURE KNOWS HIS BUSINESS!
I WOULDN'T HAVE MISSED THIS FOR THE WORLD!
LARGER GROWS THE EMBLEM UNTIL BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE ENCASED AS IN STRAIT JACKETS...
WHAT'TA WE WAITIN' FOR?! IT'S A PERFECT SETUP FOR GETTIN' RID OF BATMAN AND ROBIN!
SURE--FORGET WHAT THE BOSS SAID! THIS CHANCE COMES ONCE IN A CROOK'S LIFETIME!
CLOSE IN ON 'EM--SO WHEN WE PULL OUR TRIGGERS, WE CAN'T MISS!
IF THEY HAD ANY BRAINS, THEY'D START RUNNING!

AS FOREFINGERS CURL ABOUT HAIR-TRIGGERS, BATMAN AND ROBIN DART FORWARD AS IF AT AN UNSPOKEN SIGNAL...
HEY! THEY'RE RUNNING TOWARD US--NOT AWAY FROM US!
THE COWLED CRUSADER LEAVES HIS FEET IN A LONG, DARING LEAP!
I MAY BE HAND-TIED--BUT I STILL HAVE THE USE OF MY LEGS!
BATMAN'S POWERFUL LEGS TIGHTEN IN A CUNNING WRESTLER'S GRIP, THROWING THE GUNMAN BACKWARD...
BAM!
AT THE SAME INSTANT, THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT IS ALSO FELLING HIS MAN...
EVEN AS HIS OPPONENT SURGES UPWARD, THE MASKED MANHUNTER LOCKS HIS LEGS ABOUT HIM AND...
GOT HIM RIGHT WHERE I WANT HIM!
10

HE FLIPS HIM BACKWARD AND INTO A BUILDING WALL...
TO ONE SIDE, THE BOY WONDER IN EMPLOYING HIS OWN TACTICS...
OOMPH!
NEXT INSTANT, THE CROOK IS KNEE-PINNED TO THE GROUND...
I GIVE UP!
NOT FAR AWAY, A FUMING ROY REYNOLDS IS RACING THROUGH THE NIGHT...
THOSE NINCOMPOOPS! AGAIN AND AGAIN I WARNED THEM ABOUT TRYING TO GET RID OF BATMAN AND ROBIN! I'LL BET MY BOTTOM DOLLAR THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN WORKED ONE OF THEIR AMAZING ESCAPES AND CAPTURED THEM!
WELL, BATMAN AND ROBIN WON'T CATCH ME! I'M GOING BACK TO THE HIDE-OUT--GATHER UP THE ACCUMULATED LOOT--AND GET AWAY FROM GOTHAM CITY FOR GOOD!

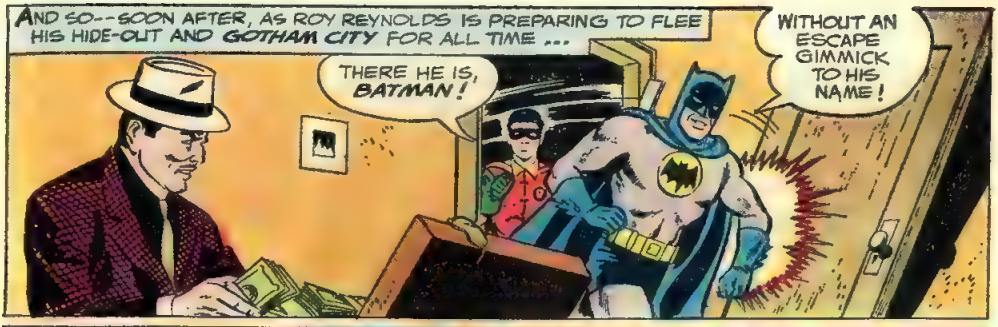

BEHIND HIM, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE BEING JOINED BY SEVERAL POLICE OFFICERS...
LOOKS LIKE YOUR PLAN SCORED A DOUBLE HIT, BATMAN!
PLAN? WHAT PLAN?

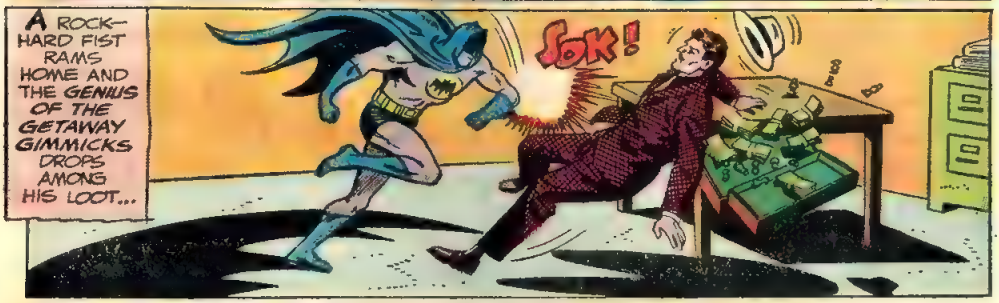
WHILE A POLICEMAN FREES HIM FROM HIS "STRAIT JACKET", ROBIN EXPLAINS WITH AN IMPISH GRIN...
THERE NEVER WAS ANY "HEXER"! EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED WAS WORKED OUT BY BATMAN--WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE NEWSPAPERS AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT! WE HAD TO DO SOMETHING TO CATCH YOU--SO BATMAN OBLIGINGLY GAVE YOU A CHANCE TO GET RID OF US!

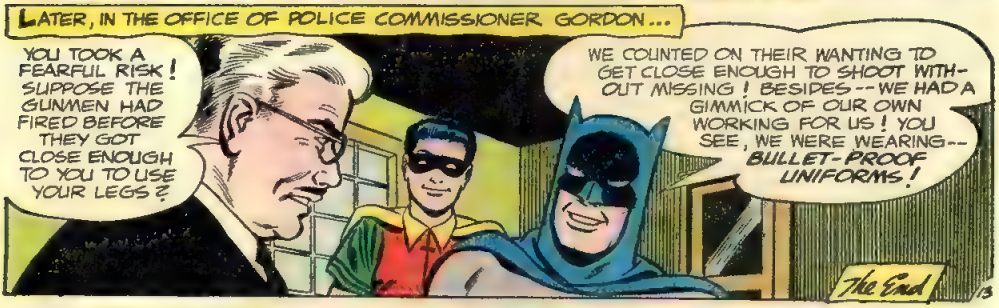
THE "RADIATION" FROM THE BAT-SIGNAL IN THE SKY WAS JUST FOR EFFECT! ACTUALLY, OUR SPECIAL EMBLEMS INFLATED WITH AIR AT THE PRESS OF A BUTTON AND ACTED LIKE STRAIT JACKETS!
WE COUNTED ON OUR ATHLETIC SKILLS TO CAPTURE YOU...EVEN WITHOUT USING OUR HANDS!

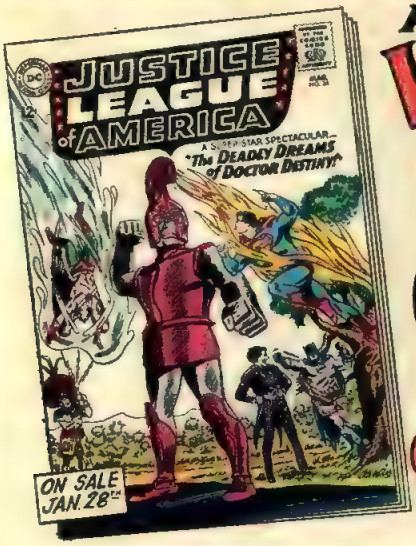
WE'D HOPED TO CAPTURE YOUR CHIEF TOO--BUT HE MUST HAVE NERVES OF STEEL TO HAVE RESISTED THE TEMPTATION TO KNOCK US OFF!
OUR CHIEF! BAH! IF HE HADN'T TAKEN A RUNOUT POWDER--AND HAD STAYED BEHIND TO HELP US, ONE OF US WOULD'VE GOTTEN YOU FOR SURE!

THE CRIMINALS TURN ANGRY FACES TOWARD EACH OTHER... FORGETTING IN THEIR RAGE THAT THEY THEMSELVES VIOLATED THEIR CHIEF'S CARDINAL RULE....
HE DESERTED US WHEN WE NEEDED HIM MOST! WE OWE HIM SOMETHING FOR THAT!
YEAH! THAT'S WHY WE'RE GONNA TELL YOU HOW YOU CAN CAPTURE HIM, BATMAN! HE AIN'T GONNA GO FREE WHILE WE SERVE TIME BEHIND JAIL-BARS!


AND SO--SOON AFTER, AS ROY REYNOLDS IS PREPARING TO FLEE HIS HIDE-OUT AND GOTHAM CITY FOR ALL TIME ...
THERE HE IS, BATMAN!
WITHOUT AN ESCAPE GIMMICK TO HIS NAME!




LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...
YOU TOOK A FEARFUL RISK! SUPPOSE THE GUNMEN HAD FIRED BEFORE THEY GOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO YOU TO USE YOUR LEGS?
WE COUNTED ON THEIR WANTING TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO SHOOT WITHOUT MISSING! BESIDES--WE HAD A GIMMICK OF OUR OWN WORKING FOR US! YOU SEE, WE WERE WEARING--BULLET-PROOF UNIFORMS!
The End



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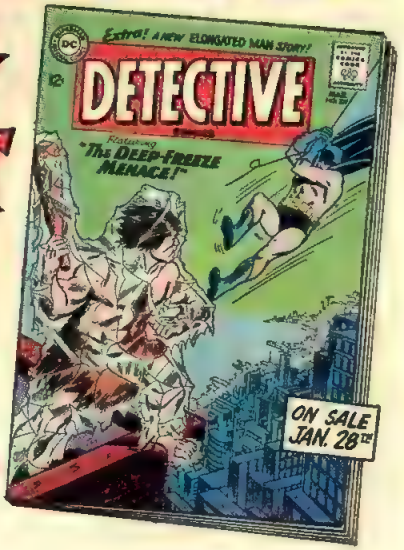

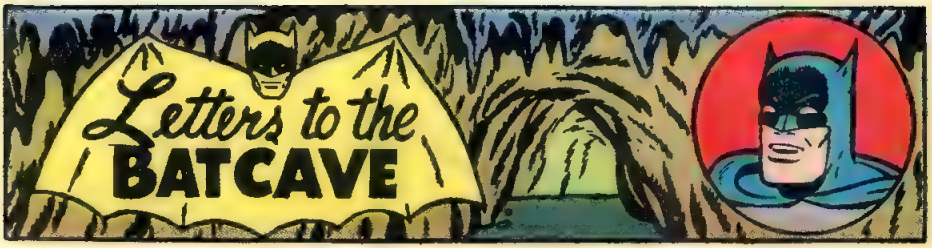

Dear Editor: For several months I've been pondering over a mystery. What did the "new look" *Batman* lack? This puzzled me no end until I purchased the November issue (167) of *Batman*. What the caped and cowled crime-crusher needed was a good spy-thriller or something with espionage involved!

"Zero Hour for Earth" was the entertaining answer to my problem as well as being the antidote to *Batman's* adventure anemia. Bob Kane, an excellent artist in his own right, always does an excellent job when it comes to book-length novels, but "Zero Hour" was the best.

The story itself could give any James Bond thriller a run for its money. "Zero Hour" was just as pulse-pounding a suspense thriller and as good as any done by the masters of spy-thrillers like the late Ian Fleming, and in the best tradition of Eric Ambler and Graham Greene.

As much as I like such spy-thrillers in *Batman*, I still flip over a chilling murder mystery, such as those the masked manhunters, *Batman* and *Robin*, excel in, which cannot be matched in the entire comics field—and not wanting to slight anyone, even the bad guys, I go wild over colorful super-villains, whether in costumes or out.

If you think I am politely implying that ye editor and his staff come up with some nifty story ideas based on the above, well . . . go, man, go! —Leonard J. Tirado, 182½ Regent St., Saratoga, N.Y.

(Your villain-loving heart which has already thumped with joy at the "new look" treatments given to such old-time *Batman* foes as the *Joker* and *Penguin* is due for another heavy workout when the forthcoming (May) *Batman* re-introduces the *Riddler*, a villain with a more than somewhat "questionable" costume! —*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: *Batman* 167 was a landmark in your campaign to return the *Gotham Gumshoe* (my personal nickname for *Batman*) to his former glory. In addition to the specific virtues of "Zero Hour For Earth," the issue had two overall good points: the magnificently drawn cover and the continuity between the chapters of the story. A novel is more enjoyable when each chapter doesn't have its own individual title and splash panel.

Concerning the two interwoven sub-plots, the *Hydra* sub-plot, particularly the segment in Holland, reminded me of an old *Batman* yarn, "Around the World in 8 Days," but was enjoyable anyway. I like the way you left *Hydra* as a possible future threat.

The *Karabi* segment was especially good because the international intrigue received much better treatment than it usually does in comics. *Batman's* alarm clock escape was very clever.

The art was good too, with one sole complaint. On the last page, Dick Grayson looked as though you're trying to give him freckles. If you are, DON'T! Changing equipment is one thing, changing people quite another.

Incidentally, were the double initials of *Batman's* romantic interests designed purposely as a parallel to *Superman's LL* series? —Brian Yates, 1094 Chestnut St., Newton, Mass., 02164

(Any resemblance between double-initialed characters in *Batman* and *Superman* is, as the convenient saying goes, strictly coincidental. We'd be a *square* to *parallel* the *LL's* of *Superman's* domain! —*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: On page 3, panel 2 of "Zero Hour for Earth" you show Commissioner Gordon speaking to reporters about the *Hydra* gang. He is telling them that this international crime syndicate was named after a fabled monster which grew a new head every time one head was lopped off. This is incorrect because the hydra grew *two heads* instead of one. —Edward Pachico, 1421 Lima St., Aurora, Colo., 80010

(No other reader caught us on this slip-up—which puts you "a-head" of any of them! —*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: What else can I say about *Batman* 167 other than that it is *great?!* In my opinion, it is the best single issue of *Batman* since around 1945, and it's even better than many issues before that.

"Zero Hour for Earth" combined a very realistic plot with some good fighting action. The two villains, *Hydra* and *Karabi*, fighting the *Caped Crusaders* was a good idea but having them do it separately was an even better one. I hope *Batman* battles *Hydra* again; it sounds like a very good adversary. *Batman's* detective work in the story was excellent, especially the sequence about the windmill.

Bob Kane's art was excellent, wonderful, great, and otherwise good. I feel his work is better than it has ever been; especially noteworthy is the first panel on page 20. The issue was dimmed though by a surprisingly poor cover, but the first interior page made up for this.

Oh, I almost forgot to mention the surprising switcheroo when *Batman* swooped down the snow bank on pages 22 and 23. In most other stories, the hero would have felled the villain by landing on top of him, but author Bill Finger worked out a novel twist by having the villain shatter *Batman's* ski with a rifle-shot, thus forcing *Batman* to down his quarry by hurling the other ski as a javelin! —Mike Friedrich, 17474 Ehle St., Castro Valley, Cal., 94546

(*Batman* always gets his man, one tricky way or another! —*Editor*)

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York, 10022.

PORE IDENTIFICATION

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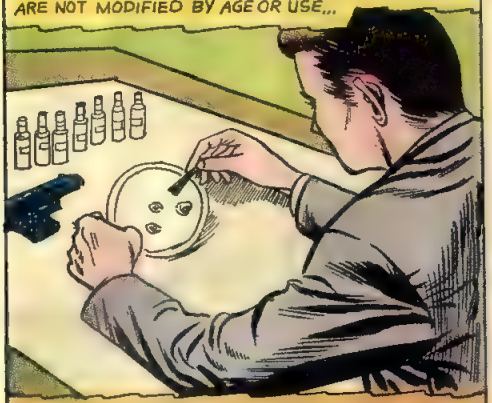
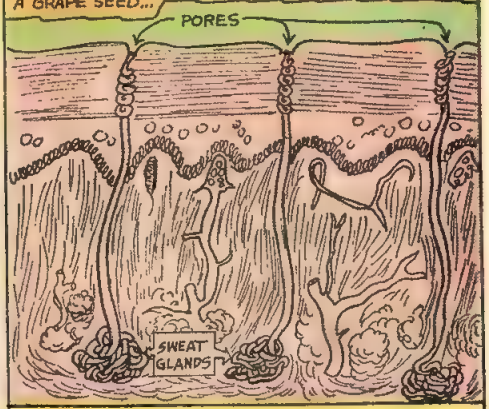


TO BRING OUT LATENT FINGERPRINTS ON AN OBJECT, IT IS DUSTED WITH BLACK POWDER.

DR. LOCARD, THE BRILLIANT FRENCH SCIENTIST WHO DEVELOPED **POROSCOPY**, DRAMATICALLY PROVED HIS CASE WHEN HE WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY A CRIMINAL FROM THE PATTERN OF HIS PORES WHICH HE LEFT ON A PIECE OF CANDLE WAX--THE SIZE OF A GRAPE SEED...



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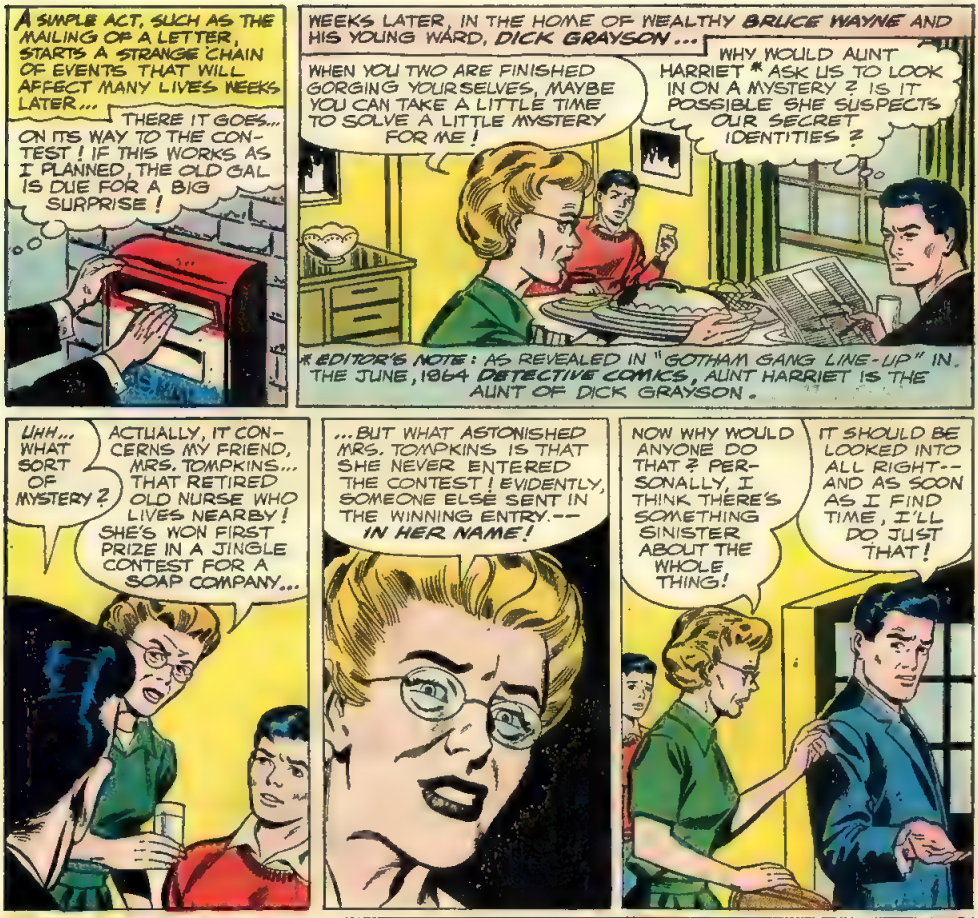
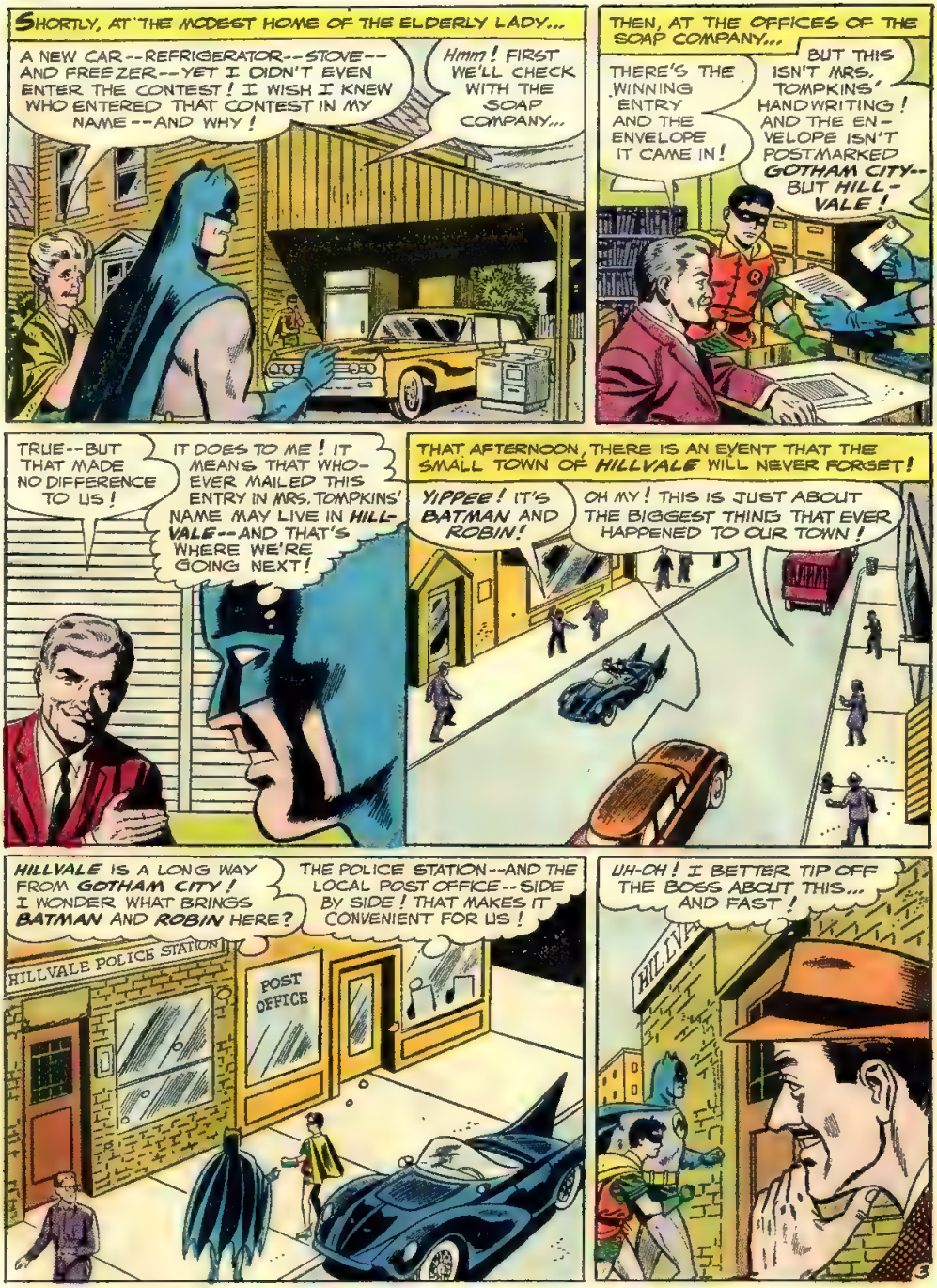
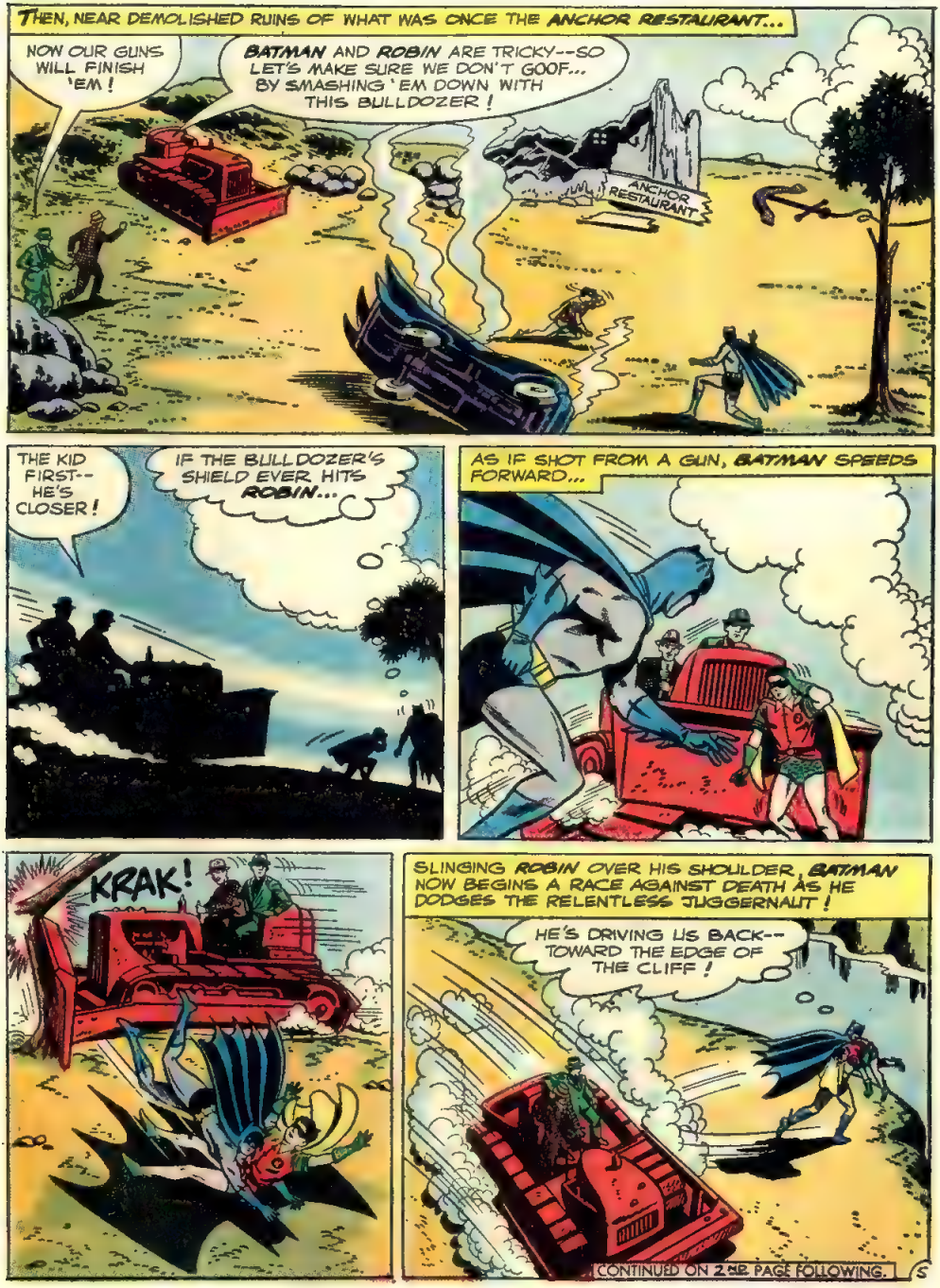
BATMAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
The PUZZLE OF THE PERILOUS PRIZES!
THAT BULL-DOZER DRIVING US BACK TO THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF!
BOB KANE


A SIMPLE ACT, SUCH AS THE MAILING OF A LETTER, STARTS A STRANGE CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT WILL AFFECT MANY LIVES WEEKS LATER...
THERE IT GOES... ON ITS WAY TO THE CONTEST! IF THIS WORKS AS I PLANNED, THE OLD GAL IS DUE FOR A BIG SURPRISE!
WEEKS LATER, IN THE HOME OF WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON...
WHEN YOU TWO ARE FINISHED GORGING YOURSELVES, MAYBE YOU CAN TAKE A LITTLE TIME TO SOLVE A LITTLE MYSTERY FOR ME!
WHY WOULD AUNT HARRIET * ASK US TO LOOK IN ON A MYSTERY? IS IT POSSIBLE SHE SUSPECTS OUR SECRET IDENTITIES?
* EDITOR'S NOTE: AS REVEALED IN "GOTHAM GANG LINE-UP" IN THE JUNE, 1964 DETECTIVE COMICS, AUNT HARRIET IS THE AUNT OF DICK GRAYSON.
UHH... WHAT SORT OF MYSTERY?
ACTUALLY, IT CONCERNS MY FRIEND, MRS. TOMPKINS... THAT RETIRED OLD NURSE WHO LIVES NEARBY! SHE'S WON FIRST PRIZE IN A JINGLE CONTEST FOR A SOAP COMPANY...
...BUT WHAT ASTONISHED MRS. TOMPKINS IS THAT SHE NEVER ENTERED THE CONTEST! EVIDENTLY, SOMEONE ELSE SENT IN THE WINNING ENTRY.-- IN HER NAME!
NOW WHY WOULD ANYONE DO THAT? PERSONALLY, I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING SINISTER ABOUT THE WHOLE THING!
IT SHOULD BE LOOKED INTO ALL RIGHT-- AND AS SOON AS I FIND TIME, I'LL DO JUST THAT!
LATER, BRUCE AND DICK SECRETLY ENTER THEIR BATCAVE SANCTUM BENEATH THE WAYNE MANSION, WHERE...
I STILL CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT AUNT HARRIET KNOWS THAT WE'RE SECRETLY BATMAN AND ROBIN! SHE SEEMED TO INSINUATE SOMETHING IN HER REMARKS...
LET'S TACKLE ONE MYSTERY AT A TIME! MRS. TOMPKINS IS FIRST...
2


SHORTLY, AT THE MODEST HOME OF THE ELDERLY LADY...
A NEW CAR--REFRIGERATOR--STOVE--AND FREEZER--YET I DIDN'T EVEN ENTER THE CONTEST! I WISH I KNEW WHO ENTERED THAT CONTEST IN MY NAME--AND WHY!
Hmm! FIRST WE'LL CHECK WITH THE SOAP COMPANY...
THEN, AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOAP COMPANY...
THERE'S THE WINNING ENTRY AND THE ENVELOPE IT CAME IN!
BUT THIS ISN'T MRS. TOMPKINS' HANDWRITING! AND THE ENVELOPE ISN'T POSTMARKED GOTHAM CITY--BUT HILLVALE!
TRUE--BUT THAT MADE NO DIFFERENCE TO US!
IT DOES TO ME! IT MEANS THAT WHOEVER MAILED THIS ENTRY IN MRS. TOMPKINS' NAME MAY LIVE IN HILLVALE--AND THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING NEXT!
THAT AFTERNOON, THERE IS AN EVENT THAT THE SMALL TOWN OF HILLVALE WILL NEVER FORGET!
YIPPEE! IT'S BATMAN AND ROBIN!
OH MY! THIS IS JUST ABOUT THE BIGGEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO OUR TOWN!
HILLVALE IS A LONG WAY FROM GOTHAM CITY! I WONDER WHAT BRINGS BATMAN AND ROBIN HERE?
THE POLICE STATION--AND THE LOCAL POST OFFICE--SIDE BY SIDE! THAT MAKES IT CONVENIENT FOR US!
HILLVALE POLICE STATION
POST OFFICE
UH-OH! I BETTER TIP OFF THE BOSS ABOUT THIS... AND FAST!
HILLVA

SHORTLY, A FRANTIC MAN RUSHES INTO A SECRET GANG HIDE-OUT...
STILTS-- WE GOT TROUBLE! BATMAN AND ROBIN JUST BLEW INTO TOWN--HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE!
WHA-AAT?! THEY WOULDN'T BE SNOOPING AROUND HERE UNLESS THEY GOT A LEAD SOMEHOW...
BUT HOW COULD BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE GOTTEN WISE TO US? I PLANNED EVERYTHING SO CAREFULLY!
PETE, YOU AND ED GO BACK AND KEEP TABS ON BATMAN AND ROBIN! WHEN YOU GET THE CHANCE, "HIT" BATMAN AND ROBIN!
MEANWHILE, UPON BEING BRIEFED BY BATMAN, THE SHERIFF CALLS IN THE LOCAL POST OFFICE CLERK...
NOPE--DON'T RECOGNIZE THIS ENVELOPE! WHOEVER MAILED IT, DIDN'T BRING IT TO ME IN THE POST OFFICE DIRECT, BUT MUST'VE DROPPED IT IN THE MAIL BOX OUTSIDE AFTER CLOSING TIME!
LATER, ON THE CLIFF-SIDE ROAD LEADING OUT OF TOWN...
THE ENVELOPE HAS A DISTINCTIVE PATTERN IN THE PAPER! THERE'S A STATIONERY STORE IN THE NEXT TOWN--SO IT'S POSSIBLE THE SHOPKEEPER MIGHT CARRY SUCH A LINE OF ENVELOPES AND REMEMBER TO WHOM IT WAS SOLD...
SUDDENLY, AT A TURN NEAR AN EXCAVATION SITE...
YOU TOSSED THAT GRENADE RIGHT ON TARGET, PETE!
BOO-OOM!


THEN, NEAR DEMOLISHED RUINS OF WHAT WAS ONCE THE ANCHOR RESTAURANT...
NOW OUR GUNS WILL FINISH 'EM!
BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE TRICKY--SO LET'S MAKE SURE WE DON'T GOOF... BY SMASHING 'EM DOWN WITH THIS BULLDOZER!
ANCHOR RESTAURANT
THE KID FIRST-- HE'S CLOSER!
IF THE BULLDOZER'S SHIELD EVER HITS ROBIN...
AS IF SHOT FROM A GUN, BATMAN SPEEDS FORWARD...
KRAK!
SLINGING ROBIN OVER HIS SHOULDER, BATMAN NOW BEGINS A RACE AGAINST DEATH AS HE DODGES THE RELENTLESS JUGGERNAUT!
HE'S DRIVING US BACK-- TOWARD THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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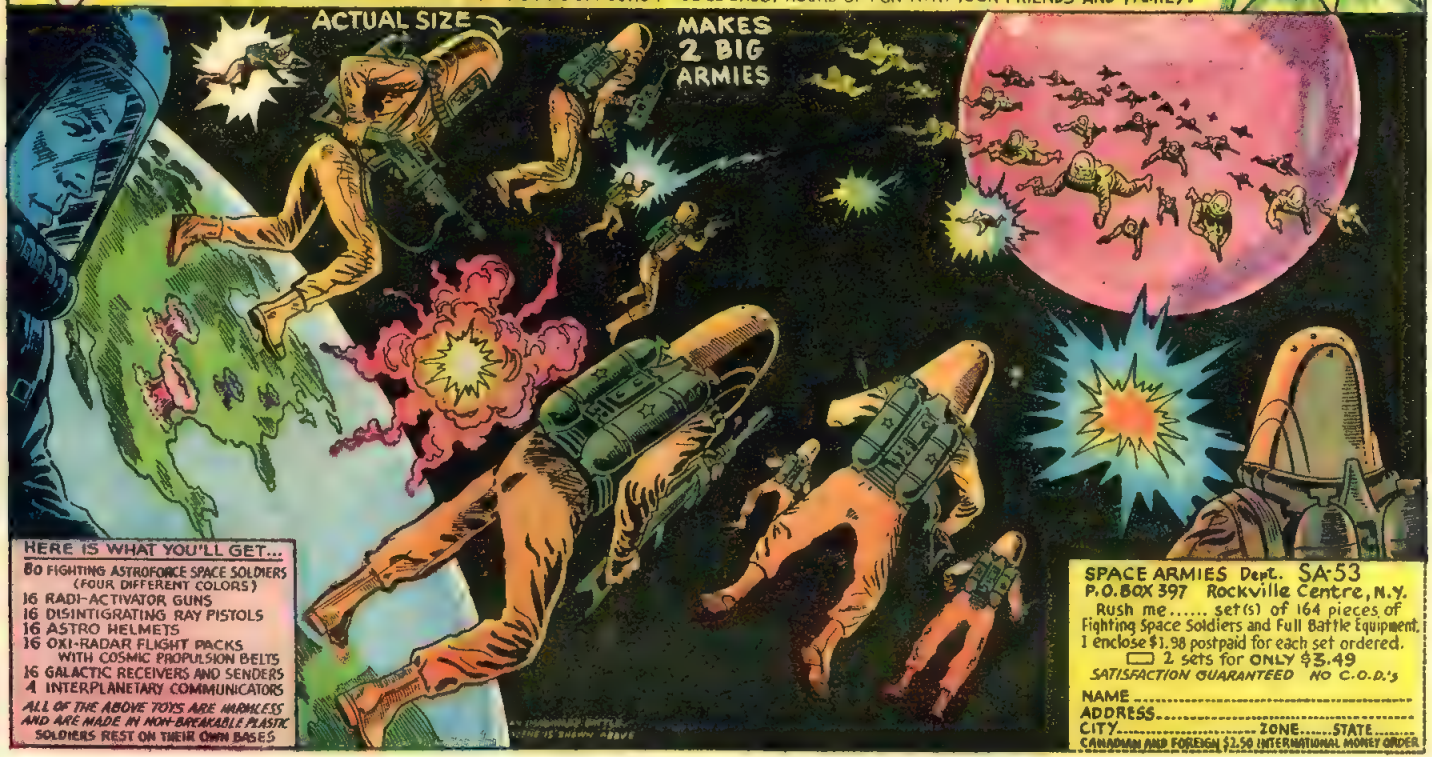

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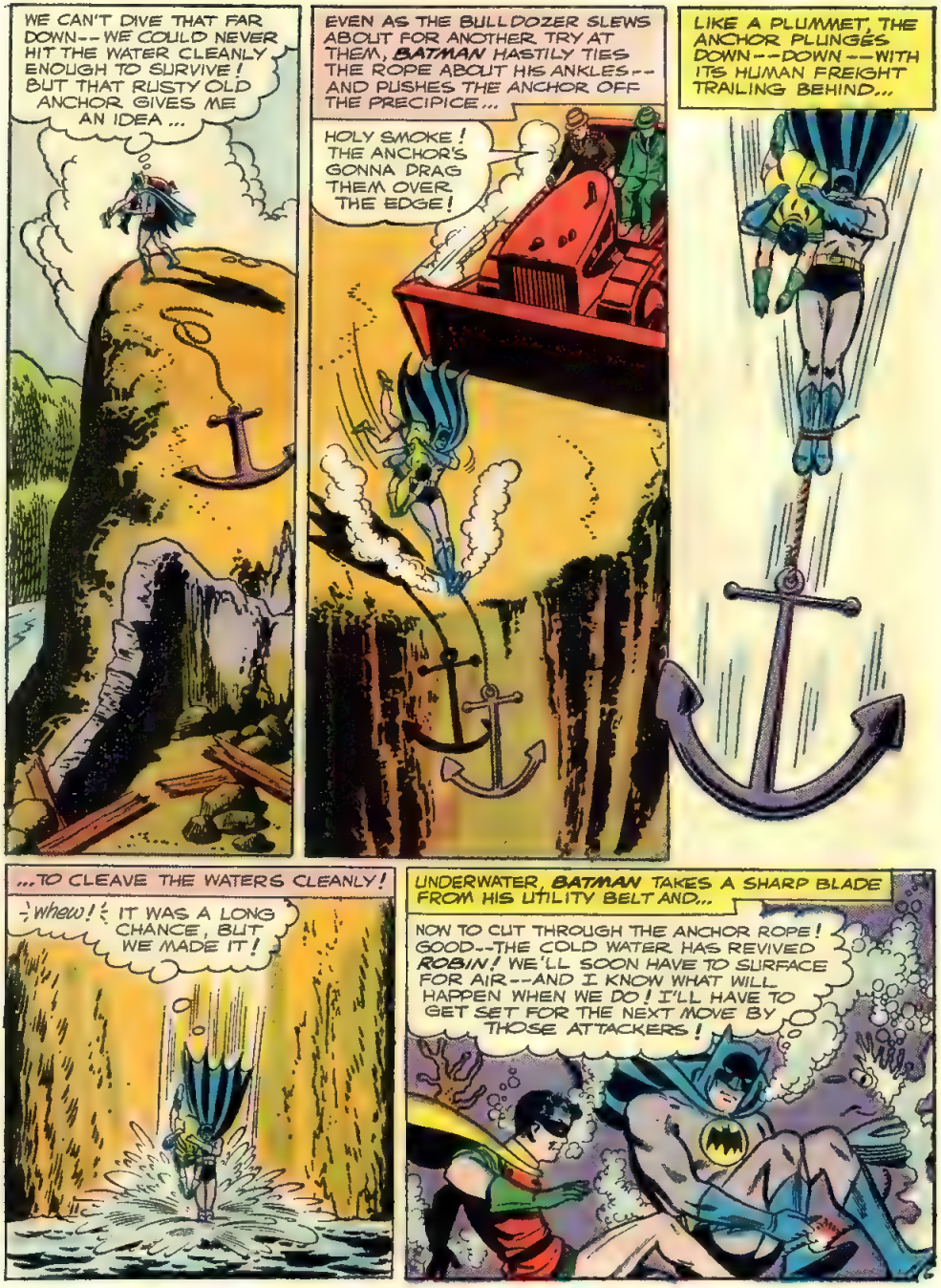
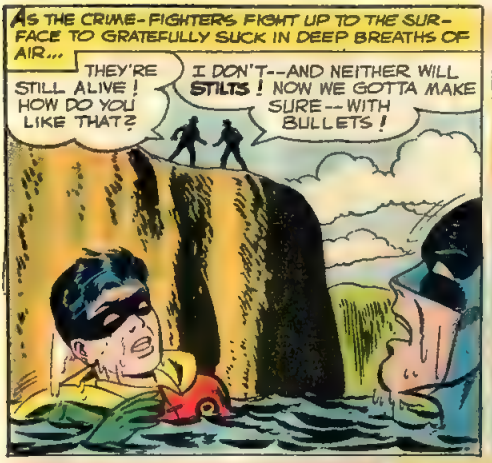
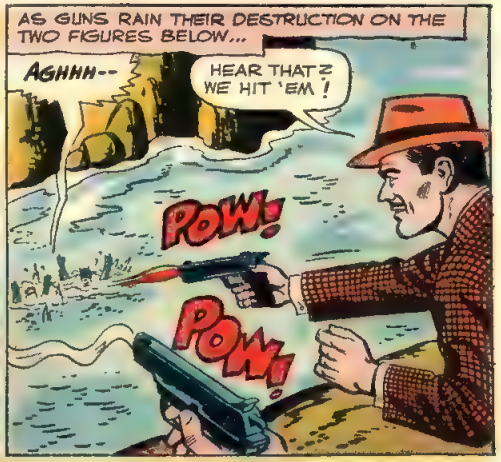
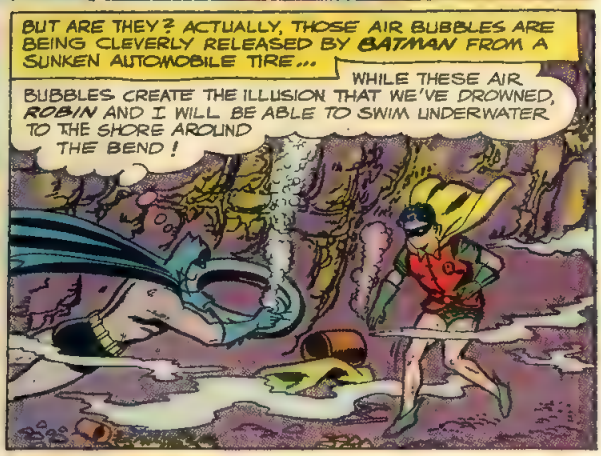
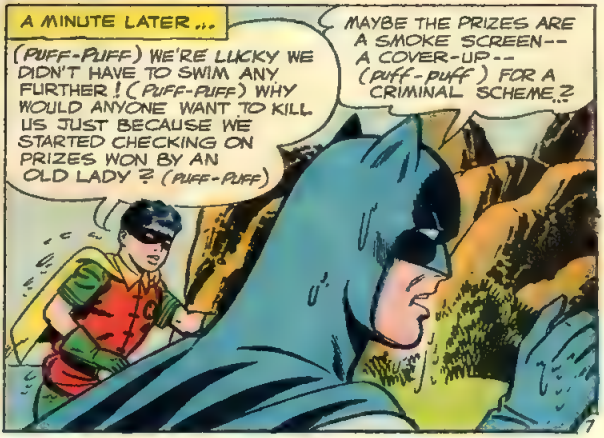

WE CAN'T DIVE THAT FAR DOWN--WE COULD NEVER HIT THE WATER CLEANLY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE! BUT THAT RUSTY OLD ANCHOR GIVES ME AN IDEA ...
EVEN AS THE BULLDOZER SLEWS ABOUT FOR ANOTHER TRY AT THEM, BATMAN HASTILY TIES THE ROPE ABOUT HIS ANKLES--AND PUSHES THE ANCHOR OFF THE PRECIPICE...
HOLY SMOKE! THE ANCHOR'S GONNA DRAG THEM OVER THE EDGE!
LIKE A PLUMMET, THE ANCHOR PLUNGES DOWN--DOWN--WITH ITS HUMAN FREIGHT TRAILING BEHIND...
...TO CLEAVE THE WATERS CLEANLY!
-whew!- IT WAS A LONG CHANCE, BUT WE MADE IT!
UNDERWATER, BATMAN TAKES A SHARP BLADE FROM HIS UTILITY BELT AND...
NOW TO CUT THROUGH THE ANCHOR ROPE! GOOD--THE COLD WATER HAS REVIVED ROBIN! WE'LL SOON HAVE TO SURFACE FOR AIR--AND I KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN WE DO! I'LL HAVE TO GET SET FOR THE NEXT MOVE BY THOSE ATTACKERS!


AS THE CRIME-FIGHTERS FIGHT UP TO THE SURFACE TO GRATEFULLY SUCK IN DEEP BREATHS OF AIR...
THEY'RE STILL ALIVE! HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?
I DON'T--AND NEITHER WILL STILTS! NOW WE GOTTA MAKE SURE--WITH BULLETS!


AS GUNS RAIN THEIR DESTRUCTION ON THE TWO FIGURES BELOW...
AGHHH--
HEAR THAT? WE HIT 'EM!
POW!
POW!

AGAIN THE WATERS CLOSE OVER TWO SINKING FIGURES, AND THEN...
LOOK! BUBBLES OF AIR!
BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE GONE FOR GOOD!


BUT ARE THEY? ACTUALLY, THOSE AIR BUBBLES ARE BEING CLEVERLY RELEASED BY BATMAN FROM A SUNKEN AUTOMOBILE TIRE...
WHILE THESE AIR BUBBLES CREATE THE ILLUSION THAT WE'VE DROWNED, ROBIN AND I WILL BE ABLE TO SWIM UNDERWATER TO THE SHORE AROUND THE BEND!


A MINUTE LATER...
(PUFF-PUFF) WE'RE LUCKY WE DIDN'T HAVE TO SWIM ANY FURTHER! (PUFF-PUFF) WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO KILL US JUST BECAUSE WE STARTED CHECKING ON PRIZES WON BY AN OLD LADY? (PUFF-PUFF)
MAYBE THE PRIZES ARE A SMOKE SCREEN--A COVER-UP--(PUFF-PUFF) FOR A CRIMINAL SCHEME...?

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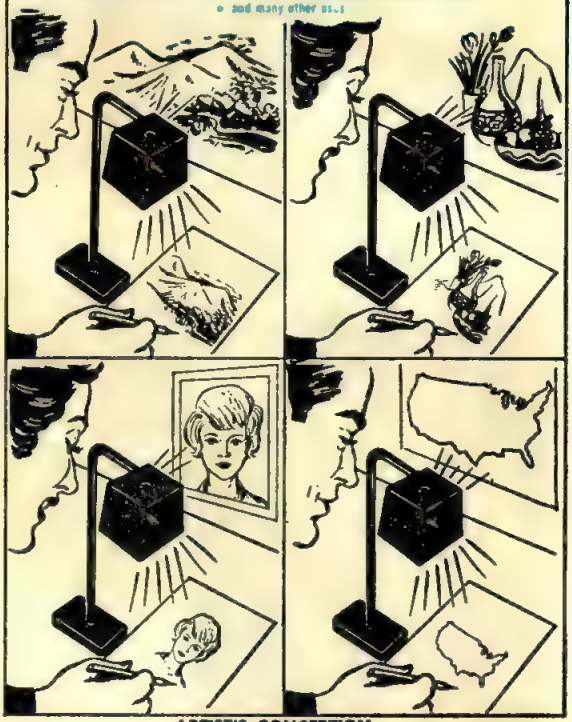

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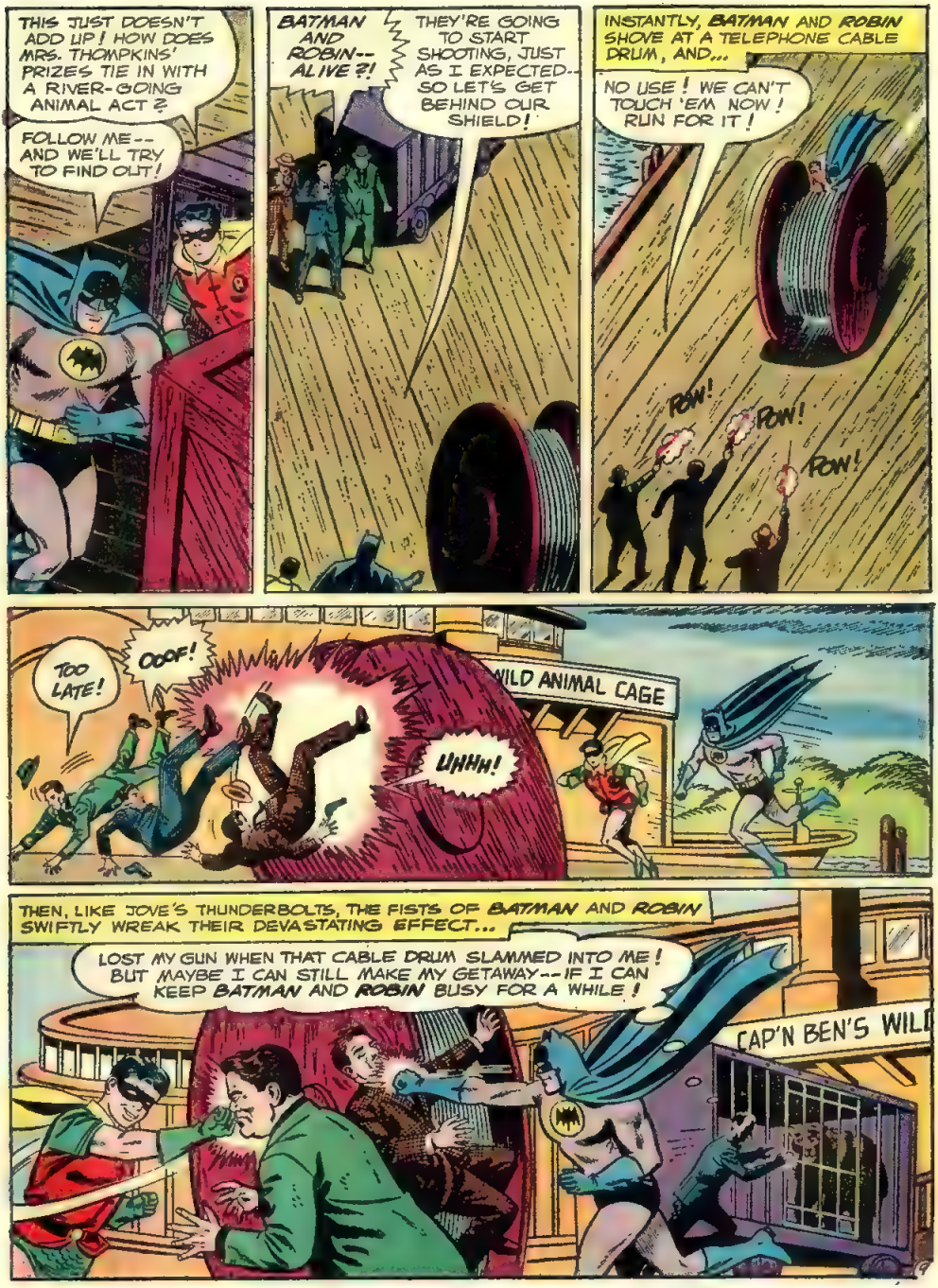
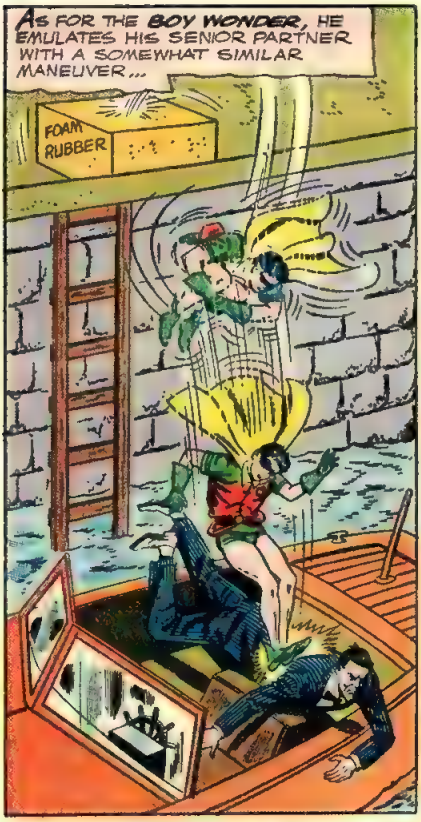
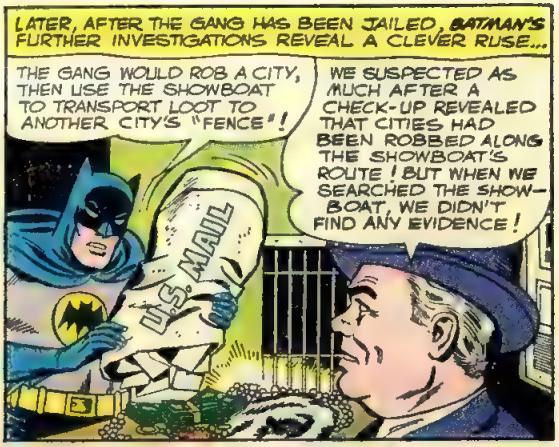
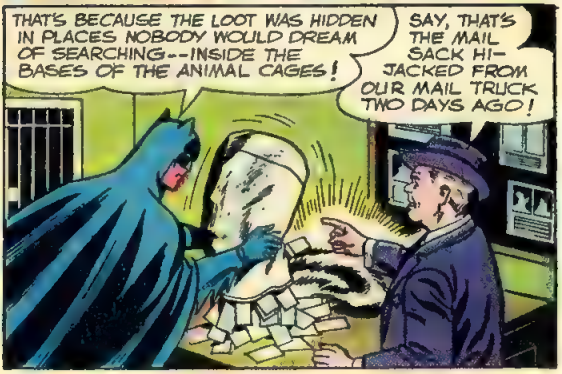
MEANWHILE, AT THE THUGS' HIDE-OUT...
IT'S DONE, STILTS! LIKE YOU ORDERED-- BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE DEAD!
OKAY--NOW WE CAN MOVE ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE!
AT THAT MOMENT, AS BATMAN SEARCHES FOR A LEAD TO HIS WOULD-BE ASSASSIN...
HERE'S THE BULLDOZER-- BUT IT'S EMPTY NOW!
NOT ENTIRELY EMPTY! HERE'S SOMETHING THAT WAS DROPPED BY ONE OF OUR ASSAILANTS!
A MAN'S WRIST-WATCH! NOTICE THAT THE LEATHER STRAP IS WORN RIGHT THROUGH! IT PROBABLY SNAPPED WHILE THE DRIVER WAS STEERING THE BULLDOZER AT US! LUCKILY, THIS ISN'T A SEALED, WATERPROOF WATCH -- AND THAT'S A BREAK FOR US!
HOW COME?
ROBIN, UNLESS A WATCH IS SEALED TIGHT, IT EXPANDS AND CONTRACTS WITH TEMPERATURE CHANGES! EVERY-TIME IT DOES THAT, IT BREATHES IN DUST--WHICH IS WHY A WATCH NEEDS A CLEANING PERIODICALLY! RIGHT NOW I WANT TO ANALYZE THE DUST IN THIS WATCH!
SHORTLY, AFTER TAKING A MICROSCOPE FROM THE TRUNK OF THE BATTERED BATMOBILE...
STRANGE! THE DUST CONTAINS DIFFERENT TYPES OF ANIMAL HAIRS THAT SUGGESTS A ZOO... OR A CIRCUS...
AT THE TOWN'S RIVERFRONT DOCK, AFTER SECRETLY CHECK-ING WITH THE LOCAL POLICE CHIEF...
THAT HAS TO BE IT, ROBIN... THERE'S NO OTHER ANIMAL GROUPING IN THIS VICINITY! A SHOWBOAT -- WITH A TRAVELING ANIMAL ACT--LOADING UP AFTER PLAYING A TWO-WEEK ENGAGEMENT AT THIS TOWN! AND THERE ARE OUR TWO WOULD-BE KILLERS!
CAPN BEN'S WILD ANIMAL ACT

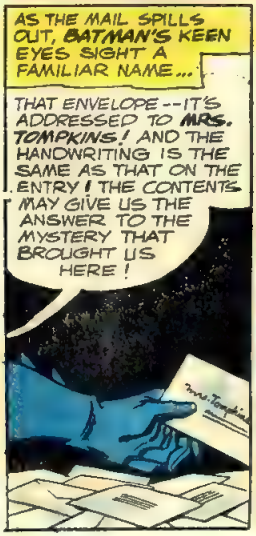

THIS JUST DOESN'T ADD UP! HOW DOES MRS. THOMPKINS' PRIZES TIE IN WITH A RIVER-GOING ANIMAL ACT?
FOLLOW ME--AND WE'LL TRY TO FIND OUT!
BATMAN AND ROBIN--ALIVE?!
THEY'RE GOING TO START SHOOTING, JUST AS I EXPECTED--SO LET'S GET BEHIND OUR SHIELD!
INSTANTLY, BATMAN AND ROBIN SHOVE AT A TELEPHONE CABLE DRUM, AND...
NO USE! WE CAN'T TOUCH 'EM NOW! RUN FOR IT!
POW!
POW!
POW!
TOO LATE!
OOOF!
UHHH!
WILD ANIMAL CAGE
THEN, LIKE JOVE'S THUNDERBOLTS, THE FISTS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN SWIFTLY WREAK THEIR DEVASTATING EFFECT...
LOST MY GUN WHEN THAT CABLE DRUM SLAMMED INTO ME! BUT MAYBE I CAN STILL MAKE MY GETAWAY--IF I CAN KEEP BATMAN AND ROBIN BUSY FOR A WHILE!
CAP'N BEN'S WILD

OKAY, BIMBO--GO GET 'EM!
GREAT SCOTT! HE'S FREED THE GRIZZLY!
JUST IN TIME, BATMAN DUCKS BENEATH SLASHING CLAWS...
ROBIN, GO AFTER THAT GUY--I'LL STAY HERE AND TRY TO GET THIS GRIZZLY BACK INTO ITS CAGE!
CHECK!
SWIFTLY, BATMAN SPRINGS FORWARD TO SLAM HIS FIST TO THE GRIZZLY'S MOST TENDER SPOT...
RIGHT ON ITS NOSE!
EVEN AS THE BEAR BELLOWS IN PAIN AND INSTINCTIVELY BACKS AWAY, BATMAN SNATCHES UP A BOAT HOOK, AND...
DID IT! SLAMMED HIM OFF BALANCE-BACK INTO THE CAGE!
BEFORE THE FURIOUS BEAR CAN RECOVER FROM ITS SURPRISE, BATMAN SLAMS THE CAGE DOOR SHUT!
THAT'S THAT! I WONDER HOW ROBIN IS DOING?

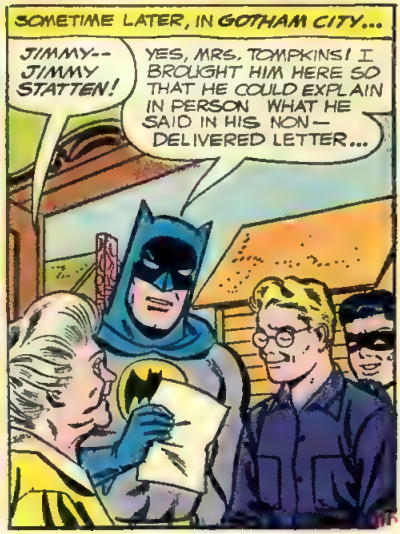

AS FOR THE BOY WONDER, HE EMULATES HIS SENIOR PARTNER WITH A SOMEWHAT SIMILAR MANEUVER...
FOAM RUBBER

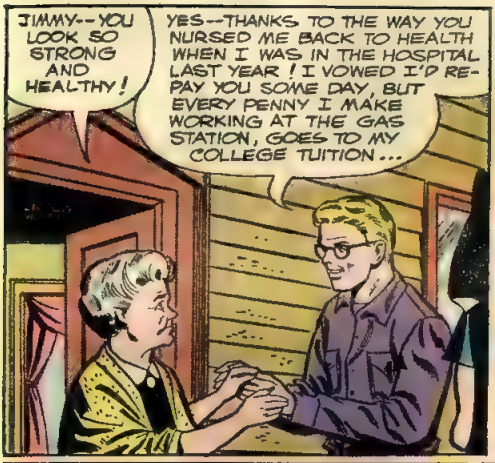

LATER, AFTER THE GANG HAS BEEN JAILED, BATMAN'S FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS REVEAL A CLEVER RUSE...
THE GANG WOULD ROB A CITY, THEN USE THE SHOWBOAT TO TRANSPORT LOOT TO ANOTHER CITY'S "FENCE"!
WE SUSPECTED AS MUCH AFTER A CHECK-UP REVEALED THAT CITIES HAD BEEN ROBBED ALONG THE SHOWBOAT'S ROUTE! BUT WHEN WE SEARCHED THE SHOW-BOAT, WE DIDN'T FIND ANY EVIDENCE!
U.S. MAIL

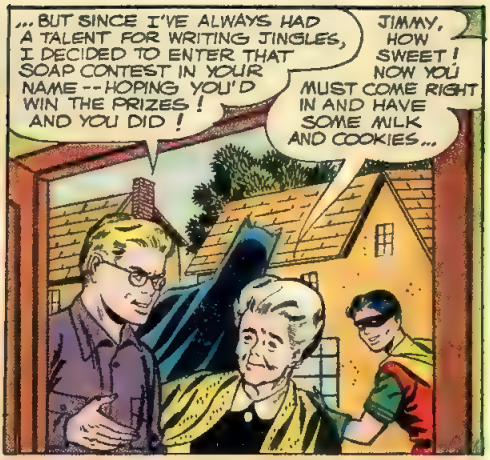

THAT'S BECAUSE THE LOOT WAS HIDDEN IN PLACES NOBODY WOULD DREAM OF SEARCHING--INSIDE THE BASES OF THE ANIMAL CAGES!
SAY, THAT'S THE MAIL SACK HI-JACKED FROM OUR MAIL TRUCK TWO DAYS AGO!

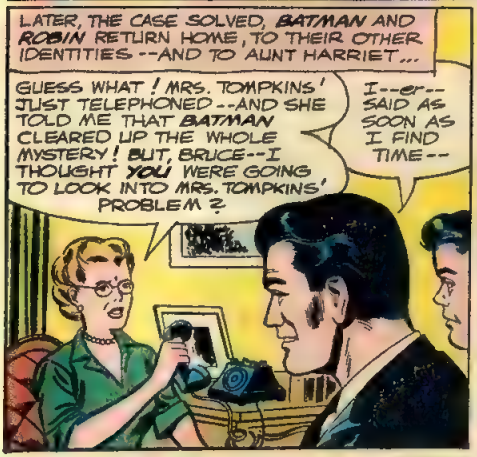

AS THE MAIL SPILLS OUT, BATMAN'S KEEN EYES SIGHT A FAMILIAR NAME...
THAT ENVELOPE--IT'S ADDRESSED TO MRS. TOMPKINS! AND THE HANDWRITING IS THE SAME AS THAT ON THE ENTRY! THE CONTENTS MAY GIVE US THE ANSWER TO THE MYSTERY THAT BROUGHT US HERE!

SHORTLY AFTER, AT THE TOWN'S GAS STATION...
JAMES STATTEN--YOUR NAME AND RETURN ADDRESS WERE ON THIS LETTER! YOU'VE SOME EXPLAINING TO DO!
Super Oil


SOMETIME LATER, IN GOTHAM CITY...
JIMMY--JIMMY STATTEN!
YES, MRS. TOMPKINS! I BROUGHT HIM HERE SO THAT HE COULD EXPLAIN IN PERSON WHAT HE SAID IN HIS NON-DELIVERED LETTER...


JIMMY--YOU LOOK SO STRONG AND HEALTHY!
YES--THANKS TO THE WAY YOU NURSED ME BACK TO HEALTH WHEN I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL LAST YEAR! I VOWED I'D REPAY YOU SOME DAY, BUT EVERY PENNY I MAKE WORKING AT THE GAS STATION, GOES TO MY COLLEGE TUITION...


...BUT SINCE I'VE ALWAYS HAD A TALENT FOR WRITING JINGLES, I DECIDED TO ENTER THAT SOAP CONTEST IN YOUR NAME--HOPING YOU'D WIN THE PRIZES! AND YOU DID!
JIMMY, HOW SWEET! NOW YOU MUST COME RIGHT IN AND HAVE SOME MILK AND COOKIES...


LATER, THE CASE SOLVED, BATMAN AND ROBIN RETURN HOME, TO THEIR OTHER IDENTITIES--AND TO AUNT HARRIET...
GUESS WHAT! MRS. TOMPKINS' JUST TELEPHONED--AND SHE TOLD ME THAT BATMAN CLEARED UP THE WHOLE MYSTERY! BUT, BRUCE--I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO LOOK INTO MRS. TOMPKINS' PROBLEM?
I--er--SAID AS SOON AS I FIND TIME--

WHEN THE TWO CRIME-FIGHTERS ARE ALONE...
I WONDER IF AUNT HARRIET REALLY BOUGHT MY EX-PLANATION! OR DID IT ONLY SERVE TO MAKE HER SUSPECT OUR TRUE IDENTITIES MORE THAN SHE DID BEFORE?
WHO KNOWS? WE'LL FIND OUT--IN TIME...
The End

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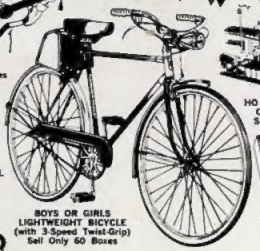

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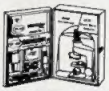
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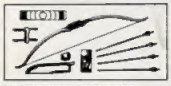
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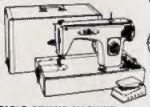
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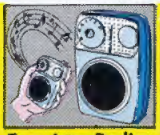
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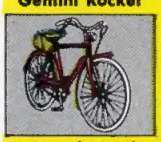
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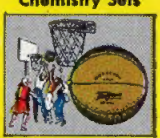
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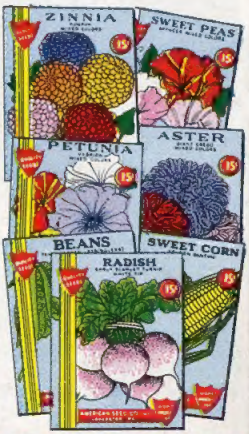

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